

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 271016Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9158

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5867

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC PINS ET

SUBJ: TENNECO FIVE

REF: A. KHARTOUM 1065 B. HARTOUM 1166 C. ADDIS 5848

D. ASMARA'S 370 RPTD AS ADDIS 5667 PARAS 2B AND 3C

E. FBIS KYRENA 221042Z MAY 74

1. SHEIKH OF ASSAORTA HAS ARRANGED FOR CAPTOR-BAND TO SEND NEGOTIATOR ACCOMPANIED BY ONE CAPTIVE TO MEET WITH HIM AND, THEREAFTER, POSSIBLY WITH TENNECO REP IN ERITREA. CHOPPER IN PLACE READY TO LIFT PARTICIPANTS TO SITE AND MEETING MAY TAKE PLACE TODAY, MAY 27.

2. IT OUR UNDERSTANDING THROUGH COL YASUWORK THAT SHEIKH HAS INVOLVED HIMSELF AND REMAINS PREPARED CONTINUE DO SO ONLY PROVIDING THAT DISCUSSIONS REMAIN ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL BETWEEN CAPTORS AND TENNECO AND FOCUS ON RELEASE OF MEN WITHOUT POLITICAL CONDITIONS -- READ IEG INVOLVEMENT (COMMENT: COL. YASUWORK MAY OF COURSE BE PUTTING IEG DESIDERATA INTO SHEIKH'S MOUTH AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECOGNIZE).

3. THIS BEING SO, IT IMPERATIVE ASCERTAIN FIRST WHETHER CAPTOR-BAND INDEED SUFFICIENTLY RESPONSIVE SHEIKH'S TRADITIONAL INFLUENCE TO EFFECT RELEASE ON TERMS MORE FAVORABLE THAN THOSE ARTICULATED BY ELF REP IN PARA 6 OF REF B WHICH, WE NOTE, CLOSER
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TO CONTENTS OF REF E.

4. DHARTOUM MAY THEREFORE WISH SPEAK TO MR. WELDON GRAHAM ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. PER PARA 9 REF B GRAHAM SHOULD CONTACT ZEIN WEDNESDAY MORNING.
B. HE SHOULD INFORM ZEIN AT THAT TIME THAT TENNECO HAD TAKEN NOTE OF SUBSTANCE PARA 6 ITEMS A THROUGH D OF REF B. TENNECO NEGOTIATOR WOULD COME TO KHARTOUM SHORTLY TO DISCUSS THESE DEMANDS. BEGIN FYI PARA 4A AND B ABOVE APPROVED BY TENNECO'S MR. ROBERT BOGAN END FYI.

5. CONVERSATION SHOULD THUS SEEK DELAY ZEIN'S MESSAGE TO HIS SUPERIORS AND, WHEN THIS NO LONGER POSSIBLE SHOULD BE COUCHED SO AS TO GENERATE ZEIN MESSAGE LEAST LIKELY INTERFERE WITH PROCESS DESCRIBED PARA 1 HOPEFULLY AT LEAST FOR NEXT 48 HOURS.

6. IN ADDITION TO ETHIOPIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS STRIKE, KAGNEW'S STONEHOUSE COMMO FACILITIES ALSO DOWN. WE IN TOUCH WITH ASMARA OVER OPEN DIAL PHONE LINES WHICH STILL FUNCTIONING AND RECOMMEND ALL CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY TENNECO-HOUSTON, EXERCISE APPROPRIATE DISCRETION IN THEIR COMMUNICATIONS.

7. FYI CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED THIS MORNING TO SAY HE KNEW NEGOTIATIONS IN COURSE WITH ELF IN KHARTOUM. I GAVE HIM MINIMUM BRIEFING AT EMBASSY AND URGED UTMOST DISCRETION. WYMAN

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